

TOM DAVIS, VIRGINIA,  
CHAIRMAN

CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, CONNECTICUT  
DAN BURTON, INDIANA  
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, FLORIDA  
JOHN M. McHUGH, NEW YORK  
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA  
GIL GUTKNECHT, MINNESOTA  
MARK E. SOUDER, INDIANA  
STEVEN C. LaTOURETTE, OHIO  
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA  
CHRIS CANNON, UTAH  
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TENNESSEE  
CANDICE MILLER, MICHIGAN  
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO  
DARRELL ISSA, CALIFORNIA  
VIRGINIA BROWN-WAITE, FLORIDA  
JON C. PORTER, NEVADA  
KENNY MARCHANT, TEXAS  
LYNN A. WESTMORELAND, GEORGIA  
PATRICK T. McHENRY, NORTH CAROLINA  
CHARLES W. DENT, PENNSYLVANIA  
VIRGINIA FOXX, NORTH CAROLINA

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074  
FACSIMILE (202) 225-3974  
MINORITY (202) 225-5051  
TTY (202) 225-6852

<http://reform.house.gov>

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA,  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

TOM LANTOS, CALIFORNIA  
MAJOR R. OWENS, NEW YORK  
EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK  
PAUL E. KANJORSKI, PENNSYLVANIA  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK  
ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND  
DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO  
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS  
Wm. LACY CLAY, MISSOURI  
DIANE E. WATSON, CALIFORNIA  
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, MASSACHUSETTS  
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, MARYLAND  
LINDA T. SANCHEZ, CALIFORNIA  
C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER,  
MARYLAND  
BRIAN HIGGINS, NEW YORK  
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

BERNARD SANDERS, VERMONT,  
INDEPENDENT

June 2, 2005

General Richard Myers  
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
9999 Joint Staff Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20318-9999

Dear General Myers:

In the past few weeks, allegations of abusive U.S. detention practices have continued to mount. Last week, in releasing its annual report, Amnesty International harshly criticized practices at Guantanamo and other detention centers.<sup>1</sup> The *New York Times* ran a chilling two-part series on May 20 and 22 regarding atrocities allegedly committed at the Bagram facility in Afghanistan that led to the deaths of two individuals.<sup>2</sup> And a U.S. military investigation in the past few weeks found a number of incidents in which U.S. military guards or interrogators mishandled the Koran.<sup>3</sup>

When asked about such reports last Sunday, you asserted:

We've had 325 investigations into allegations of mistreatment of detainees. A hundred of those have come back substantiated. There's still some pending, but a hundred have come back substantiated and action has been taken in a hundred cases where people have either been court-martialed, if it's been very serious like a death, or if it's minor it may be a less punishment.<sup>4</sup>

I am writing to seek additional information on your statement. Specifically, I request a description of the 325 allegations investigated, the findings of these 325 investigations, and what

---

<sup>1</sup> Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report* (2005).

<sup>2</sup> *In U.S. Report, Brutal Details of 2 Afghan Inmates' Deaths*, New York Times (May 20, 2005); *Army Faltered in Investigating Detainee Abuse*, New York Times (May 22, 2005).

<sup>3</sup> *E.g., Inquiry: 5 Cases of 'Mishandling' of Koran*, Boston Globe (May 27, 2005).

<sup>4</sup> *Face the Nation*, CBS (May 29, 2005).

General Richard Myers  
June 2, 2005  
Page 2

actions were taken as a result of the investigations, including the names and ranks of the individuals punished and the nature of their punishment.

It is imperative that the Administration respond promptly and thoroughly to questions raised about U.S. conduct to assure the public here and abroad that the United States is handling detentions in a responsible and humane manner. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry A. Waxman". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Minority Member